What, is claimed is:

1. A playing card shoe, comprising:

an elongated body having a card cradle for supporting a plurality of playing cards, the card cradle having an outlet opening adjacent to a front end of the elongated body;

a cradle cover removably attachable to the elongated body, covering the card cradle;

a faceplate removably attachable to an outer surface at the front end of the elongated body, and defining a mouth through which playing cards can be drawn from the outlet opening; and

a means for selectively blocking the outlet opening and which in use, the means further for ~~to~~ preventing the removal of any playing card~~s~~ from the ~~outlet opening~~ playing card shoe.

2. A playing card shoe as set forth in claim 1, the means for blocking the outlet opening comprising a card shield having a first end and a second end, the card shield being selectively positionable in the card cradle with the first end positioned between the playing cards and the outlet opening, at least a portion of the first end extending through the outlet opening.

3. A playing card shoe as set forth in claim 2, the means for blocking the outlet opening further comprising a retaining member affixed to an underside surface of the cradle cover, the retaining member engaging at least a portion of the card shield.

4. A playing card shoe as set forth in claim 3, the means for blocking the outlet opening comprising a cut card selectively positionable between the playing cards and the outlet opening, wherein the first end of the card shield is positioned between the cut card and the outlet opening, at least a portion of the first end extending through the outlet opening.

5. A playing card shoe as set forth in claim 4, wherein the retaining member is a magnet.

6. A playing card shoe as set forth in claim 5, wherein the cards shield is made of a magnetic material.

7. A playing card shoe as set forth in claim 1, the means for blocking the outlet opening comprising a front cover having a solid top surface, the front cover being removably attachable to the outer surface at the front end of the elongated body, covering the outlet opening to prevent the removal of playing cards from the outlet opening.

8. A playing card shoe as set forth in claim 7, the front cover comprising a locking mechanism.

9. A playing card shoe as set forth in claim 1, the means for blocking the outlet opening comprising a face plate insert having a solid top surface, the face plate insert being removably attachable into the mouth of the face plate, covering the outlet opening to prevent the removal of playing cards from the outlet opening.

10. A playing card shoe as set forth in claim 9, the front cover comprising a locking mechanism.

11. A security apparatus for use on a playing cards shoe having an elongated body including a card cradle for supporting a plurality of playing cards, the card cradle having an outlet opening adjacent to a front end of the elongated body, a cradle cover removably attachable to the elongated body, covering the card cradle, a faceplate removably attachable to an outer surface of the front end of the elongated body, and defining a mouth through which playing cards can be drawn, from the outlet opening, comprising:

a blocking means selectively attachable to the playing card shoe to prevent the removal of playing cards from the outlet opening ~~in the playing card shoe~~ and which in use, the means further for preventing the removal of any playing card from the playing card shoe.

12. A security apparatus as set forth in claim 11, the blocking means comprising a card shield have a first end and a second end, the card shield being selectively positionable in the card cradle of the playing card shoe, with the first end positioned between the playing cards and the outlet opening, at least a portion of the first end extending through the outlet opening.

13. A security apparatus as set forth in claim 12, the blocking means further comprising a retaining member affixed to the underside of the cradle cover, the retaining member engaging at least a portion of the card shield.

14. A security apparatus as set forth in claim 13, the blocking means further comprising a cut card selectively positionable between the playing cards and the outlet opening, wherein the first end of the card shield is positioned between the cut card and the outlet opening, at least a portion of the first end extending through the outlet opening.

15. A security apparatus as set forth in claim 14, wherein the retaining member is a magnet.

16. A security apparatus as set forth in claim 15, wherein the cards shield is made of a magnetic material.

17. A security apparatus as set forth in claim ~~1~~11, the blocking means comprising a front cover having a solid top surface, the front cover being removably attachable to the outer surface at the front end of the elongated body, covering the outlet opening to prevent the removal of playing cards from the outlet opening.

18. A security apparatus as set forth in claim 17, the front cover comprising a locking mechanism.

19. A security apparatus as set forth in claim ~~1~~11, the blocking means comprising a face plate insert having a solid top surface, the face plate insert being removably attachable into the mouth of the face plate~~,~~, covering the outlet opening to prevent the removal of playing cards from the outlet opening.

20. A security apparatus as set forth in claim 19, the front cover comprising a locking mechanism.